

**REMARKS**

**Summary of the Office Action**

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kamioka et al* (USPN 5,535,076).

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Igawa* (JP 10-74370 A) in view of *Hasegawa* (USPN 5,546,252).

Claims 14 and 15 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

**Summary of Response to Office Action**

Claims 1-16 remain currently pending in this application.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kamioka*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

The Office Action asserts that *Kamioka* discloses a supporting mechanism including supporting members contacting with the supporting shaft on two contact points. Applicants respectfully submit that *Kamioka* describes a head carriage 33, a pressing member 52, two engaging pins 39a, 39b and a lead screw 32. The two engaging pins 39a, 39b are fixed to the head carriage 33. The pressing member 52 causes the two engaging pin 39a, 39b to engage with a lead groove 32a of the lead screw 32. Applicants respectfully submit that *Kamioka* merely discloses that a pressing force is applied to the two engaging pins 39a, 39b to engage with the lead groove 32a of the lead screw 32. It should be noted that *Kamioka* provides no teaching or suggestion of the supporting member contacting with the supporting shaft on at least two contact points so as to be movable on the supporting shaft. *Kamioka* does not teach or suggest any

detailed contacting state of the lead screw 32 with the engaging pins 39a, 39b. Applicants respectfully submit that the term "at least two contact points" recited in the present independent claim 1 does not mean a "line or plane" into which points gather, but instead means "independent points" in the manner described in the specification of the instant application and shown in the figures.

For at least these particular reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that *Kamioka* does not disclose each and every feature of independent claim 1.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Igawa* (JP 10-74370 A) in view of *Hasegawa* (USPN 5,546,252). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

**Independent Claims 1 and 8**

Applicants respectfully submit that neither *Igawa* nor *Hasegawa* teaches the supporting member contacting with the supporting shaft on at least two contact points so as to be movable on the supporting shaft.

The Office Action asserts that *Igawa* shows that each of the supporting members contact with the supporting shaft on at least two contact points that are apart from each other so as to be movable on the supporting shaft. However, Applicants respectfully submit that *Igawa* merely discloses that the lead screw 8 is inserted in holes of a member 4 so as to rotably support the lead screw 8 on the member 4. Applicants respectfully submit that *Igawa* provides no teaching or suggestion of the supporting members contacting with the supporting shaft on at least two contact points so as to be movable on the supporting shaft. *Igawa* does not teach or suggest any detailed contacting state of the lead screw 8 with the member 4.

The Office Action asserts that *Hasegawa* shows a supporting mechanism in Fig. 3, wherein each of the supporting members bearings 15a and 15b contact with the supporting shaft 10 on at least two contact points that are apart from each other so as to be movable on the supporting shaft. However, Applicants respectfully submit that *Hasegawa* merely discloses that the lead screw 10 is inserted in the bearing holes 15a, 15b of the guide block 14 so as to rotatably support the lead screw 10 on the guide block 14. *Hasegawa* provides no teaching or suggestion of the supporting members contacting with the supporting shaft on at least two contact points so as to be movable on the supporting shaft. *Hasegawa* does not teach or suggest any detailed contacting state of the lead screw 10 with the guide block 14.

Applicants respectfully submit that it should also be noted that the term "at least two contact points" recited in the present independent claims 1 and 8 does not mean a "line or plane" into which points gather, but instead means "independent points" in the manner described in the specification of the instant application and shown in the figures.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 8 is patentable over *Igawa* in view of *Hasegawa*.

#### Remaining Claims

Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining rejections of dependent claims 2-4, 7, 9-10 and 14-15 under § 103(a) are also traversed because these dependent claims are allowable at least for the same reasons as their respective independent claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a) should be withdrawn because the applied art of record, whether taken singly or combined, does not teach or suggest each feature of independent claims 1 and 8. As pointed out in MPEP § 2131, "[t]o anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element

of the claim.” Thus, “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.”

*Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Similarly, MPEP § 2143.03 instructs that “[t]o establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 409 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (CCPA 1974).” Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2-4, 7 and 9-10 are allowable at least because of their dependence from their respective independent claims and the reasons set forth above.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 14 and 15 include allowable subject matter. However, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also in condition for allowance at least because of their dependence from independent claims 1 and 8, and the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

Moreover, since generic claims 1, 7 and 14 are allowable for the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the non-elected species claims be rejoined into this application as instructed in MPEP § 809.02(c).

**CONCLUSION**

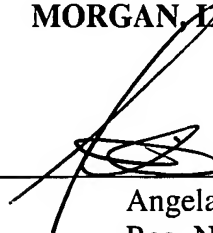
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all objections and rejections, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution of the application.

**EXCEPT** for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. **This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).**

Respectfully submitted,

**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**

Date: June 3, 2004

By:   
Angela S. Robinson  
Reg. No. 52,174

**Customer No. 009629**  
**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**  
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
Tel: (202) 739-3000  
Fax: (202) 739-3001